

American Life

Most people around the world today know something about American life. The United States is a big country. Not all Americans are the same! In this book you will see the many faces of American life.

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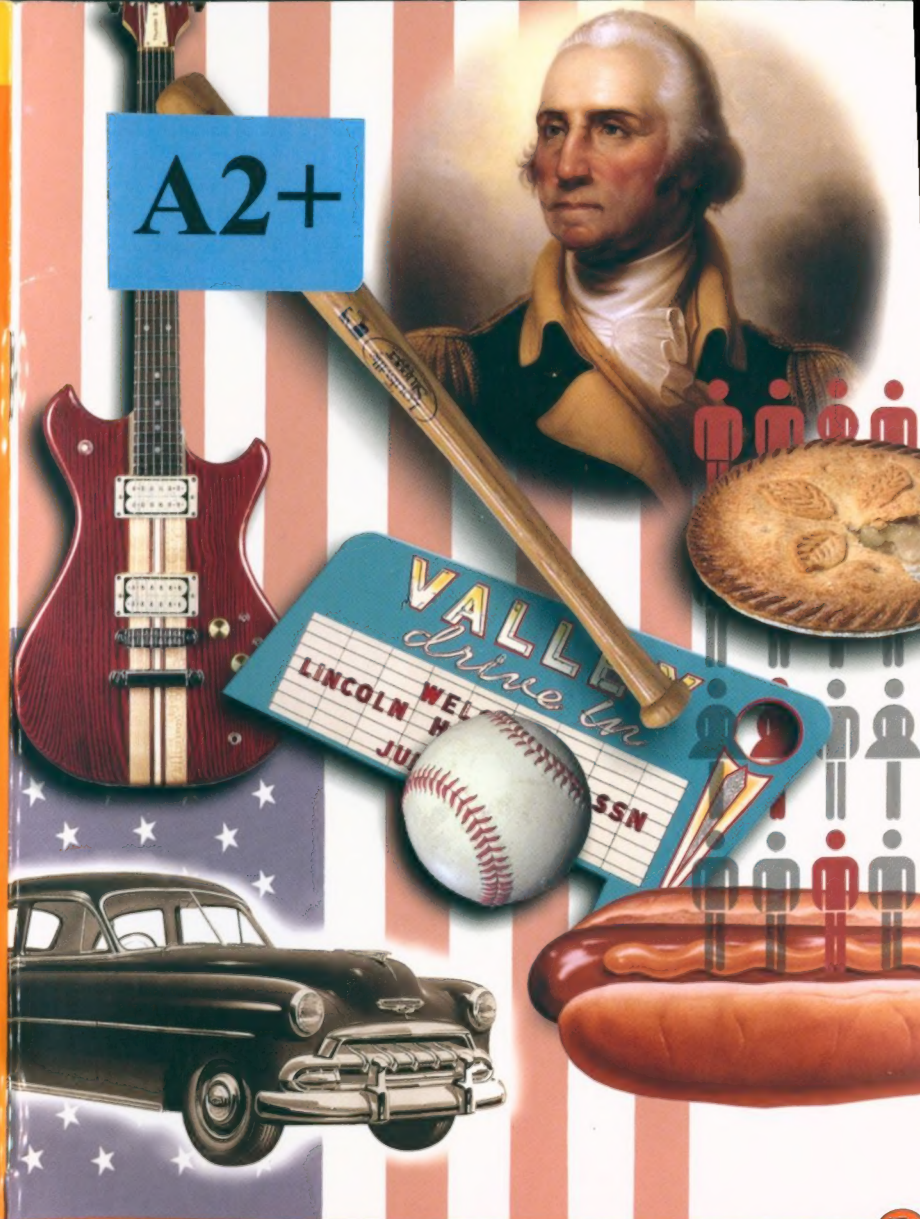
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Introduction

Many people want the “American Dream.” This usually means a big house, a big car, and a lot of money!

But how is life for average Americans? What do they like to eat? What do they watch on television? What size are their houses? Why do they love their cars? How do they work and how do they play?

Most people around the world know something about American life. They see American movies on television. Sometimes they listen to American music on the radio. Sometimes they eat in American “fast food” restaurants.

Of course, Americans are not all the same. The United States of America (the USA or US) is a big country, with more than 302,000,000 people. There are many different ways of life. Life in very hot states in the Southwest is very different from life in a state in the North. New York City is one of the most exciting cities in the world, but life there is not the same as life in a small American town! In this book you will see the many faces of American life.

Vicky Shipton is from Michigan, in the United States. She lived in Turkey and England for a long time. Vicky says, “When I lived outside the US, I saw my country with new eyes.”

When she went back to the US, she lived in Chicago for four years. Then she lived in Madison, Wisconsin, for six years with her husband and two daughters. Now they are back in England and live in Cambridge.

American Life

How much do you know about life in the United States? Answer these questions before you read this book.

- 1** What is the largest state?
a Florida **b** New York **c** Alaska
- 2** What do Americans do on July 4th?
a Go to school **b** Have a party **c** Get candy
- 3** When is dinner-time for most Americans?
a 5:00 P.M.* **b** 6:00 P.M. **c** 7:00 P.M.
- 4** At what age can Americans start to drive in most states?
a 21 **b** 16 **c** 18
- 5** How many people move to the United States every year?
a 1,100,000 **b** 25,000 **c** 3,500,000
- 6** In which state did Henry Ford start his car company?
a Michigan **b** California **c** New York
- 7** How many movies does Hollywood make in a year?
a 220 **b** 850 **c** 600
- 8** What sport do Jack Nicholson and Leonardo DiCaprio like to watch?
a basketball **b** football **c** baseball
- 9** Which city is the center of country music?
a Memphis **b** Nashville **c** Los Angeles
- 10** Who was the country's first president?
a Thomas Jefferson **b** Abraham Lincoln
c George Washington

SEE PAGE 31 FOR THE ANSWERS

* P.M.: in the afternoon/evening

The United States

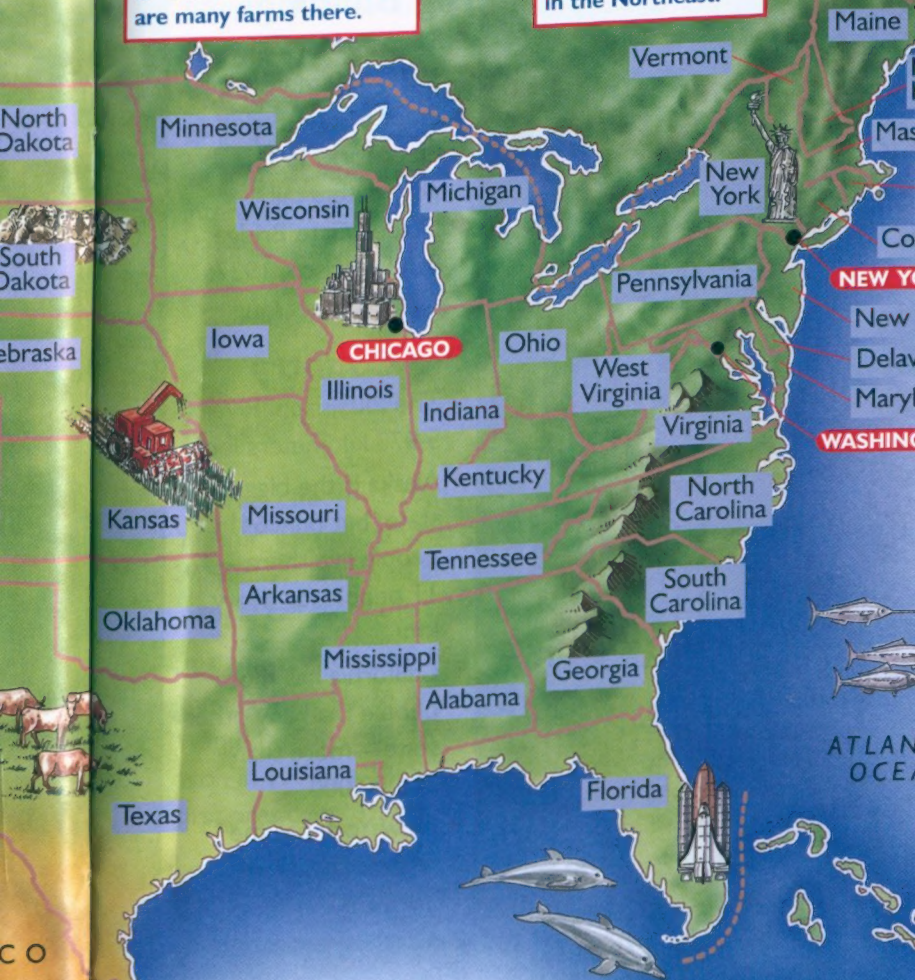


The United States of America is the fourth biggest country in the world. It is more than 4,000 kilometers from the Atlantic Ocean in the east to the Pacific Ocean in the west.

A

The middle of the country is "the Midwest." There are many farms there.

Some of the oldest towns and cities are in the Northeast.



When it is seven o'clock in New York, it is only four o'clock in Los Angeles.

Washington, DC, is the country's center of government. But the country's fifty states all have governments, too.

Size is Everything!



Big Buildings

- ◆ Sears Tower, Chicago, 1974: 520 meters tall
- ◆ Empire State Building, New York, 1931: 381 meters tall
- ◆ Golden Gate Bridge, San Francisco, 1937: 1,280 meters long

Big Country

- ◆ The Mississippi River: 5,970 kilometers long
- ◆ Alaska is the biggest state, but only 641,000 people live there—11 people for every km^2 .
- ◆ California has more people than any other state—more than 35,000,000.
- ◆ New York has the biggest city, New York City.

Empire State Building

A Country's Story

The First People The first people came to America from Siberia. They moved south and east from Alaska into the new country. Now we call these people "Native Americans."

The New World In 1492, Christopher Columbus came to America from Spain. More Europeans followed. Spain and France were most interested in the "New World." Later, Britain was interested, too. In 1587, the British built a town, Jamestown, in Virginia.

Columbus's Mistake! Columbus wanted to find India, but he arrived at a place near America. Because of Columbus's mistake, some people use the word "Indians" for Native Americans.

A Free Life In 1620, 102 people came to America from England. In America their church could be free. The first ship was the *Mayflower*. It arrived at Plymouth Rock in the Northeast. Now people call six of the states in the Northeast "New England."

A Country is Born Many people from Britain lived in the east of the country. These Americans paid money to Britain, but they wanted to be really free. They fought a war and the Americans won in 1776. In 1789, George Washington was the new country's first president. There were thirteen states in the new country.



A famous face Today Americans can remember their first president when they look at a dollar.

Go West! In 1803, President Thomas Jefferson bought a lot of land from France—west of the Mississippi River to the Rocky Mountains. Then the US was bigger. Many people wanted to go west to a new life, but it was hard there.

The new life in the West was also the end for the way of life of many Native Americans. For years the government moved them from place to place. Each time, their land was smaller and smaller.

Sometimes the Native Americans fought, but the United States was stronger. In 1890, Americans killed more than 200 Sioux people at Wounded Knee in South Dakota. Black Elk, a young Sioux, wrote, “A people’s dream died there. It was a beautiful dream.”



A Sioux Native American

North and South By the 1850s, the North and South of the country were different. The North had many cities and towns. It was richer. The South had many farms. Slaves from Africa worked on those farms. But many people in the North did not like this. In 1861, there was a war between the North and South. More than 600,000 Americans died before the war ended in 1865. The North won under President Abraham Lincoln. After the war there were no slaves in the US.

The US Today The US got stronger and stronger. After the Second World War, the United States fought a “Cold War” with the Soviet Union. When the Soviet Union ended, many Americans thought about their country’s future. Some of them think that the United States can be a “world policeman.” Other people think that this idea is wrong.

The Faces of America

From the early days, many different kinds of people lived in the United States. In 1790, more than 60% came from Britain. Many came from Ireland, Germany, Holland, and France. About 20% came from Africa. But these people were slaves; they did not want to come to America. Americans took them from their home countries.

Between 1880 and 1914, 22,000,000 immigrants came to the US. Most were from the south and west of Europe. Many of them arrived in New York City. There, these immigrants saw the Statue of Liberty. For them her face meant one thing—a new life in a new world!

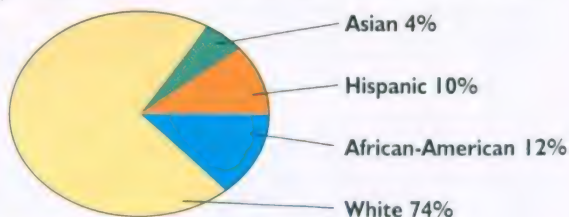
Today, most immigrants are from Latin America and Asia. About 50% of Mexican-Americans and 40% of Asian-Americans live in California.

More than 1,100,000 immigrants come to the US every year. Some people are leaving problems in their countries. Other immigrants want to live the “American dream.” But the new life is not always easy. “I cry at night. We have a car and a TV but I have no time with my family,” says one immigrant. “My Mom and Dad work all the time.”



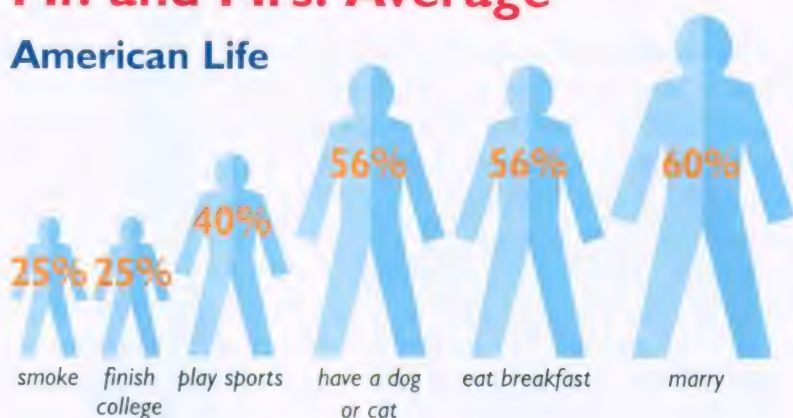
France gave the Statue of Liberty to the US in 1884.

People in America



Mr. and Mrs. Average

American Life



Shopping

Most stores are open long hours every day. Some never close. Many stores are in shopping centers, or "malls." People usually drive to these. Malls are important to many Americans. Young people meet their friends there. In bad weather, some people go for a walk in the mall. The biggest mall is the Mall of America in Minneapolis. It has more than 400 stores!

Food

There are many different kinds of food in the US. Many people make foods from their old countries. A lot of people eat Mexican food. There are Italian and Chinese restaurants everywhere. Of course, "fast food" began in America.

American Food? This is a "hot dog." In one year Americans eat 20,000,000,000 of them—60 hot dogs for every person in the country!



Most people eat early in the US. Dinner-time is usually 5:30 P.M. to 6:00 P.M. Many restaurants open at five o'clock and are full at six o'clock.

About 50% of Americans think that they are fat. More than 60% of Americans are fat. Why is this? Food is cheap, and restaurants give you a lot of it. Often a big plate of food is cheaper!

Houses

Most houses in the US are wood. Most houses have three or more bedrooms and two bathrooms. An average house costs \$167,500. Houses and apartments are more expensive in some cities—San Francisco is the most expensive city in the country.



Work

Many people want the "American Dream." This usually means a big house, a big car, and a lot of money! So Americans work hard. The average week at work is longer than in most European countries, and most companies only give new workers one or two weeks of vacation each year.

Men make more money in the US than women. The average white man makes \$44,850 each year. The average white woman makes \$33,237. Black men make about \$34,433 and black women make \$29,588. Top bosses in American companies make 300 times more than the workers. There are jobs for most people, but some workers get little money—\$5.15 for an hour's work.

High School Life 1

MARCOS IS GOING TO LIVE WITH AN AMERICAN FAMILY FOR 6 MONTHS.

Hello.
I'm Marcos.

Hi, I'm Kelly.
This is my mom.

ARRIVALS

ON THE WAY HOME

There's
Chicago!

Look! You
can see the
Sears Tower!

How did you
know that?

I saw it
in a movie.

TWO DAYS LATER

Let's go,
Marcos. It's
time for school.



AT THE SCHOOL



A Drive Through Life

Americans love their cars. Think of the American songs, books, and movies about cars! There are 200,000,000 cars on the roads. Each year there are 16,000,000 new cars. There are now more than 2,742,550 kilometers of road in the country.

Car Numbers

- ◆ The average drive to work is 25 minutes.
- ◆ Only 5% of Americans catch buses and trains to work.
- ◆ The average American has a car trip four times every day.
- ◆ In Montana, on some roads, you can drive as fast as you want.

In most states, Americans can drive when they are sixteen. In some states, when people are fifteen, they can drive with a parent in the car. Life without a car is difficult. Schools, stores, and work are usually a long way from home. Some towns and cities do not have trains or buses. Most Americans drive everywhere.

The Story of the Car

Henry Ford started to build cars in Detroit, Michigan, in 1903. From 1908 to 1930, more than 16,000,000 people bought his car, the Ford "Model T." Other big car companies started in Michigan, too. In the 1980s, many Americans began to buy cars from other countries. This hurt the Michigan car companies. Today, Michigan makes 20% of new US cars. It is the car center of the country.



Car Life

In the US you can live in your car:

- ◆ You can drive through a bank.
- ◆ You can go to a restaurant and eat in your car.
- ◆ You can drive through a Las Vegas church and marry.
- ◆ You can say goodbye to a dead friend from your car in a Mississippi church.
- ◆ You can shop in your car at some stores.
- ◆ You can watch a movie outside in your car in some movie theaters.



In the 1950s, car companies made big cars. Today many Americans like big cars, too. But the cars of today are very different.



Problems in the United States

Two Countries

The United States is a rich country, but not everybody in the US is rich. Some people think that in the future there will be "two countries"—one for rich people and one for people without money. Some rich Americans live in small towns with walls around them. Police watch these towns because the people in the towns may attack them.

Crime and Guns

Many visitors think that the US is a dangerous place. Some places in big cities can be very dangerous. But most of the country is very different. In the 1990s, the number of crimes in the US fell every year. It has stayed the same since 2000—around 400,000 every year. But many people think that guns are the biggest problem in the US. You can buy a gun easily in most states. Guns kill or hurt thousands of Americans—over 30,000 in one year. But some Americans with guns say that the government can not take their guns—not without a fight!

Color

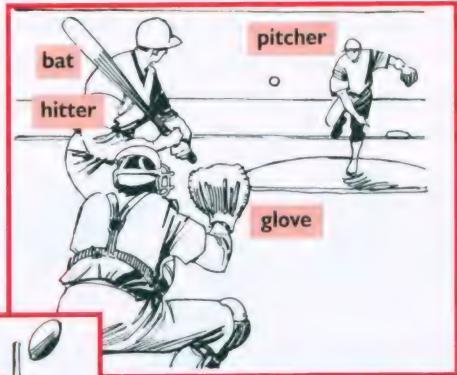
Some African-Americans say that they can not get a good job. The average African-American does not get as much money as the average white American. Some African-Americans say that they have more problems with the police.

The Story of a Fight Life was difficult for African-Americans for many years. Problems were worst in the South. In the 1950s and 1960s, African-Americans began to fight these problems. "I have a dream," said Martin Luther King, Jr.* to thousands of people in Washington, DC, in 1963. He spoke of a future without problems of color. Today, many people work for that dream.

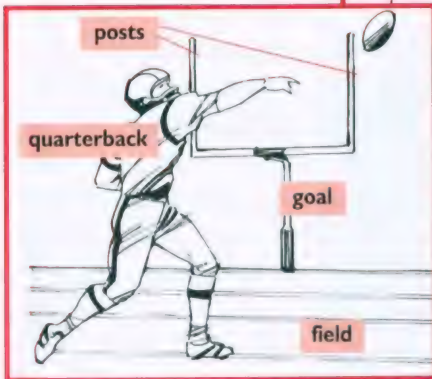
Jr.: the short form of "Junior." His father had the same name.

Take Me to the Ball Game!

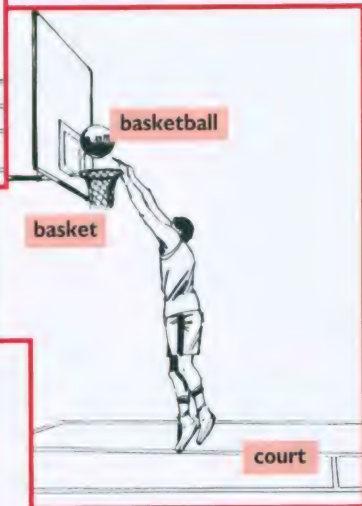
Americans love sports.
Baseball, American
football, basketball, and
hockey are the biggest!



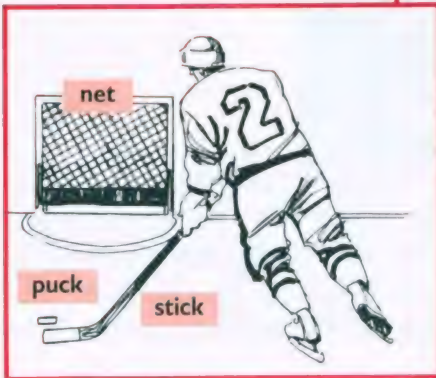
a baseball field



a football field



a basketball court



a hockey arena

Baseball

Baseball possibly started from an old English game. But now many Americans think that it is the most American sport. Some Americans remember the best players after years and years. Many people say that Babe Ruth was the best baseball player. But he stopped playing in 1935!



In baseball, hitters dream of “home runs.” They get a home run when they run all the way around. Or, sometimes, they hit the ball out of the park. Hank Aaron was one of the sport’s best players. He played from 1954 to 1976, for teams in Atlanta and Milwaukee. In this time he hit 755 home runs. One year he hit 47!

Hank Aaron—a great baseball player

Old Problems For almost fifty years, African-Americans could not play professional baseball. In 1947, Jackie Robinson was the first African-American on a big team. He was one of baseball’s greatest players.

American Football

Other countries call it American football. In the US, it is “football.” To some people, football is more than a game—it is a war!

The first game of American football was in 1874. There are many players on a team, but only eleven can play at one time. Each team tries to get the ball past the other team’s line. This is a “touchdown.” For many people, the most important player is the quarterback. He throws the ball to his team.

Football is a hard, dangerous sport, and some players are big—VERY big! Aaron Gibson of the Chicago Bears is 2.01 meters and 177 kilos.

You can watch professional and college football teams on TV. Most college players want to go to professional teams after college. The professional players make big money—\$10,000,000 in one year for some players.

Each January the best professional teams play in the biggest game of the year, the “Super Bowl.” It is one of television’s biggest days. Companies pay a lot of money for television commercials on that day.

Great Teams

- ◆ San Diego Chargers
- ◆ Baltimore Ravens
- ◆ New England Patriots
- ◆ Chicago Bears

The Other Game “Football” in other countries is “soccer” in the United States. Not many people watch the sport, but around 3,200,000 children play it. Will Americans be more interested in soccer because David Beckham started playing in Los Angeles in 2007?

Basketball

Basketball started in the US in 1891. A teacher in Massachusetts wanted a new game for his class. The children threw a ball into a fruit basket! Many people loved the new sport. People in cities liked it because they could play it without a big park.

Five players from each team can play on the court at one time. Basketball is a fast sport. The players are usually very tall, too! One of the tallest players, Yao Ming, is 2.29 meters.

Many Americans watch or play basketball. People watch college and professional games on television. There are twenty-nine professional men's teams. There are professional women's basketball teams, too. A lot of famous people watch basketball: Oprah Winfrey, Jack Nicholson, and Leonardo DiCaprio all go to games.

Many people think that the American basketball team at the 1992 Olympics in Barcelona was the sport's greatest team. Some of the players were Michael Jordan, Larry Bird, Charles Barkley, and Magic Johnson. They were the "Dream Team." They won all of their games. In 1996 and 2000 the US basketball team won the Olympics, too.

The Best LeBron James plays for the Cleveland Cavaliers. People call him "King James." He started playing professional basketball when he was 18. Before this, he earned 90,000,000 dollars from Nike. Now James is one of the richest and most famous players.



LeBron James

Hockey

Ice hockey started in Canada. (Most Americans call it "hockey.") Native Americans played it. Then, of course, they could only play in winter. Today, hockey teams can play inside. But there are more hockey teams in the north of the country than in the south. Minnesota has the most teams.

Hockey is a fast game. Players try to hit the puck into the other team's net with a hockey stick. There are six players on the ice on each team.

There are professional and college hockey teams. The professionals play from October to June. There are twenty-four professional teams in the US and six in Canada.

NASCAR

America's new love

Many Americans love to watch the fast cars of NASCAR*. This sport started in 1948. Everybody can drive in NASCAR, but it costs about \$10,000,000. Jeff Gordon is the best NASCAR driver, with more than eighty wins. He started when he was only five. He won for the first time when he was six.

* NASCAR: the "National Association for Stock Car Auto Racing"





Movies, Movies, Movies

American movie-makers make about 600 movies each year. Other countries make more movies—there are more than 850 new movies every year in India. But many people watch American movies around the world. Of course, movie-makers know this. Some American movies do not make a lot of money in the US, but people in other countries love them.

Today, the name Hollywood means movies. Before 1910, Hollywood was only a small town near Los Angeles. Movie-makers moved there from New York because they wanted the Californian sun. Their job was easier with good weather. In 1920, Hollywood was the center for American movies. Of course, there was no sound in early movies. Everything changed in 1927 with *The Jazz Singer*. In that movie Al Jolson sang. Much of the movie had no sound, but Jolson also spoke. After that, people wanted more and more movies with sound.

Movies changed in other ways, too. They got bigger and better. Six years after *The Jazz Singer*, King Kong fought airplanes in New York City in one of the most famous movies of 1933 (*King Kong*).

For years, almost every star in Hollywood worked for only one movie company. Today, stars can work for different movie companies. Of course, big names in Hollywood make big money. These people can ask for \$20,000,000 or more for one movie:

- ★ Johnny Depp
- ★ Tom Cruise
- ★ Julia Roberts
- ★ Brad Pitt
- ★ Will Smith
- ★ Keanu Reeves

The Biggest Movies

These movies made the most money in the US:

- ◆ *Titanic*
- ◆ *The Lord of the Rings: The Return of the King*
- ◆ *Pirates of the Caribbean: Dead Man's Chest*
- ◆ *The Lord of the Rings: The Two Towers*
- ◆ *Star Wars: The Phantom Menace*



Johnny Depp (left) in *Pirates of the Caribbean: The Curse of the Black Pearl*

Every year, people want bigger and better movies. The makers of the *Spiderman* and *Pirates of the Caribbean* movies used computers for some of each movie. Sometimes movie companies plan more than one movie. They made the second and third *Pirates of the Caribbean* movies at the same time. The movie companies make money in a lot of ways. People can see the movie, then they can buy books about it, clothes, and food.

*Oscar: Every year movie-makers give an Oscar to the year's best movie.

Music in the US



Americans listen to all kinds of music. Many people like country music. The center of country music is Nashville, Tennessee. Tim McGraw is one of the most famous country singers. By 2006 he sold more than 35,000,000 albums. His wife, Faith Hill, is also a country singer.

Tim McGraw

Early Years The most famous singer of the 1950s was Elvis Presley. His music was new and exciting, and young people loved it. All of Elvis's songs from 1956 to 1958 were number one. Elvis was a great dancer. But some Americans weren't happy with his kind of dancing. Television only showed his top half!

Today, every town or city has many radio stations. There are more country music stations than any other kind. Young people also like to watch music. MTV (Music Television) started in the United States in 1981.

The biggest albums in the US:

◆ *The Eagles Greatest Hits 1971–5*

◆ *Thriller* by Michael Jackson

(Americans bought more than 25,000,000 of each of these albums!)

◆ Madonna had thirty-two songs in the top ten—more than any other woman.

◆ Garth Brooks, a country singer, sold more than 20,000,000 albums.

Television

Americans love TV. The average American watches television for 3.59 hours every day. Children watch more—almost four hours every day.

- 99% of American homes have color TVs.
- 66% have more than three TVs.

In 1952/53, 67.3% of TV-watchers in the US watched the biggest show on television, *I Love Lucy*. At one time, the biggest TV show was *Friends*. But only 29.8% of people watched the last *Friends* show. The most popular TV show in 2006 was *Will and Grace*, but only 18% watched this. Why are the numbers falling? More and more people in the US have more and more TV channels. Some channels only have shows about food; other channels only have shows about animals or sports or church.

Almost all television channels show commercials—a lot of them! PBS is the only free channel without commercials. It gets some money from the government and some from the American people.

Many Americans want to be famous—they want to be on television. They can go on *The Jerry Springer Show* or *Dr Phil* and talk about their problems. One man killed another man after they were on *The Jenny Jones Show*.



The Jerry Springer Show

High School Life 2



IN THE LAST MINUTE
OF THE GAME...

Go, Northern
High School!

I have it!

Touchdown!
Northern wins!

Great, Marcos!
How did you
do that?

I saw...

I know! You
saw it in a movie!

American Days



Many Americans do not go to work or school on Martin Luther King, Jr.'s birthday in January.

JANUARY

8 9 10 11 12 13 14

22 23 24 25 26 27 28

FEBRUARY

8 9 10 11 12 13 14

22 23 24 25 26 27 28

MARCH

9 10 11 12 13 14

22 23 24 25 26 27 28

APRIL

9 10 11 12 13 14

22 23 24 25 26 27 28



On July 4th, Americans remember the start of their country in 1776. It's party day!

MAY 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16

21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31

JUNE

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17

18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30



At Halloween, on October 31st, children dress in funny clothes. They ask neighbors for candy.

7 8 9 10 11 12

1 22 23 24 25 26

AUGUST

7 8 9 10 11 12

22 23 24 25 26 27

SEPTEMBER

7 8 9 10 11 12

22 23 24 25 26 27

OCTOBER

7 8 9 10 11 12

22 23 24 25 26 27

NOVEMBER

8 9 10 11 12

22 23 24 25 26 27

DECEMBER

5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12

20 21 22 23 24 25 26



With the help of Native Americans, the first Europeans in New England had food for the winter. Now, too, people eat well at Thanksgiving in November.

ACTIVITIES

Pages 1-6

Before you read

- 1 What do you know about the United States? How is it different from your country? Make notes about:
the size of the country the people the food work
- 2 Look at the Word List at the back of the book. Then answer these questions.
 - a Which *album* by an American singer do you like most?
 - b How many television *channels* can you see on your television? Do they all show *commercials*?
 - c Do you like TV *shows* about *crime* and police work? Why (not)?
 - d Which radio *stations* do you listen to? Why?

While you read

- 3 Are these sentences right (✓) or wrong (x)?
 - a Washington, DC, is in the center of the country.
 - b There are 50 states in the US.
 - c The United States is the biggest country in the world.
 - d The Sears Tower is smaller than the Empire State Building.
 - e New York has more people than any other state.

After you read

- 4 What happened first? What happened next?
 - a President Thomas Jefferson bought land from France.
 - b Christopher Columbus went to America.
 - c The first people arrived in America from Siberia.
 - d 200 Sioux people died at Wounded Knee in South Dakota.
 - e The North of the United States fought the South.
 - f The *Mayflower* arrived at Plymouth Rock.
 - g George Washington became the first president.
- 5 Work with another student. Talk about your country's "story." Write down the most important dates.

Pages 7-11

Before you read

- 6 Discuss the "average American." What do you think?
How many Americans (%):
- | | |
|-------------------|----------------------------|
| a smoke? | d have a dog or a cat? |
| b finish college? | e marry? |
| c play sports? | f think that they are fat? |

While you read

- 7 Are these sentences right (✓) or wrong (X)?
- | | |
|---|-------|
| a In 1790 most immigrants were European. | |
| b In 1790 most African immigrants were slaves. | |
| c The Statue of Liberty is in Washington, DC. | |
| d Today most immigrants to the US are British. | |
| e More than 1,000,000 immigrants arrive in the US every year. | |
- 8 Circle the right words.
- | |
|---|
| a The Mall of America has more than 500/400/100 stores. |
| b Most Americans eat <i>dinner/lunch/hamburgers</i> at about 5:30 P.M. |
| c Most houses in America have <i>two/three/four</i> bathrooms. |
| d The most expensive city in the US is <i>Dallas/New York/San Francisco</i> . |
| e Most Americans only have one or two <i>weeks'/days'/months'</i> vacation each year. |

After you read

- 9 Marcos wants to play American football. What will he have to do well when he plays? Discuss this question with other students.

Pages 12-19

Before you read

- 10 Give each sentence a number between 1 (wrong) and 10 (very right).
What do you think?
- | |
|--|
| a People in the US have to have a car. |
| b The US is a very dangerous place. |
| c Most Americans are rich. |
- 11 How many American sports do you know? Which do you like most? Why?

While you read

12 Put the right numbers and dates in the sentences below.

4 20 30,000 1903 5 1963

- a The average American goes somewhere in a car times a day.
- b Only % of Americans catch the bus or train to work.
- c Henry Ford built the first car in Detroit in
- d The state of Michigan makes % of all new cars in the US.
- e Guns hurt or kill Americans every year.
- f In Martin Luther King, Jr. spoke to thousands of people in Washington, DC.

After you read

13 Finish the sentences with words on the right.

- | | |
|---|--|
| a In baseball, hitters dream ... | 1) very tall. |
| b Barry Bonds plays ... | 2) baseball on all teams before 1947. |
| c African-Americans could not play ... | 3) of "home runs." |
| d The first game of American football was ... | 4) baseball for the San Francisco Giants. |
| e Professional football players are ... | 5) sometimes very big. |
| f David Beckham started playing ... | 6) in Canada. |
| g Most basketball players are ... | 7) soccer for an American team in 2007. |
| h Ice hockey started ... | 8) in 1874. |

14 Answer these questions.

- a Who said, "I have a dream"?
- b What sport did the "Dream Team" play in the Olympics?
- c In which sport do people use a stick and a puck?
- d What did Jackie Robinson do first?

Pages 20–26

Before you read

15 Discuss these questions.

- a Which American movies do you like? Why?
- b Which American TV shows do you like? Why?
- c Which American singers do you like? Why?

While you read

16 Write these names in the sentences.

Pirates of the Caribbean Tim McGraw Tom Cruise

The Eagles Greatest Hits *Titanic* Elvis Presley

- a can get \$20,000,000 for one movie.
b made the most money from a movie in the US.
c The movies are big movies for Johnny Depp.
d sold more than 35,000,000 albums.
e had a lot of number one songs between 1956 and 1958.
f sold more than any other album in the US.

After you read

17 Work with another student. Have this conversation.

Student A: You are Kelly. It is Marcos's last day in the United States. What did he enjoy about his visit? Ask him.

Student B: You are Marcos. Answer Kelly's questions.

Writing

- 18 You are moving to the United States. Write a letter to a friend. Tell him/her why.
19 Learn about an important American. Write the story of his or her life.
20 You work for a magazine. Write about a new American movie, album, or TV show.
21 Write about your "dream vacation" in the US. What will you do there?
22 You are making a movie about a new immigrant to the US. Make some notes for your story.
23 How is your family different from an American family? How is it the same?

American Life: Answers

1 c 2 b 3 b 4 b 5 a 6 a 7 c 8 a 9 b 10 c

Answers for the Activities in this book are available from the Penguin Readers website.

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WORD LIST *with example sentences*

album (n) I think that *Blood on the Tracks* was Bob Dylan's best **album**.

average (adj) How much fruit does the *average* American child eat?

channel (n) How many television *channels* can you watch at home?

commercial (n) The TV company makes a lot of money from *commercials*.

country music (n) Dolly Parton is a *country music* singer.

crime (n) The streets are very dangerous and everybody is afraid of *crime*.

dream (n/v) I woke up in the middle of the night because I had a bad *dream*.

government (n) The *government* wants people to stop smoking.

immigrant (n) A lot of *immigrants* are arriving in Spain from African countries.

land (n) Some of the *land* around our new house will be for the animals.

mall (n) We are going to the *mall* this afternoon. We want to buy some new clothes.

president (n) Which *President* Bush are you talking about?

professional (n/adj) He plays football. He is a *professional*, so he makes his money from sports.

shop (v) Where do you *shop* for food near here?

show (n) I enjoy watching TV *shows* about American detectives.

slave (n) When the *slaves* were free, many of them had no homes.

star (n) George Clooney is a great movie *star*, and he makes movies, too.

station (n) She listens to the same radio *station* all day.

team (n) They go to all their *team's* football games.

war (n) They fought in the *war* between the north of the country and the south.



A Christmas Carol

Charles Dickens

Scrooge is a cold, hard man. He loves money, and he doesn't like people. He really doesn't like Christmas. But then some ghosts visit him. They show him his past life, his life now, and a possible future. Will Scrooge learn from the ghosts? Can he change?

Rain Man

Charlie Babbitt thinks he will inherit his father's money. But the money goes to a man with autism – the brother Charlie never knew he had. So starts a surprising new life for both of them. *Also a major film starring Tom Cruise and Dustin Hoffman.*

The Secret Garden

Frances Hodgson Burnett

Mary Lennox goes to live with her uncle in a big, old house in the country. There are many gardens round the house. One day Mary finds a garden that has high walls and no door. What is the secret of the garden?

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